

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 H-02 PM-05 ISO-00 SIG-03 PA-02
/025 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:MAJ INGRAM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
OSD/ISA:JSIENA
OSD/LL:ECHAUARRIE
EUR/RPM:ROBINSON/FROEBE
EUR/CE:NLAUDERDALE
EUR/P:WGEHRON (INFO)
H:TWESTON
PM/ISP:JHAWES

-----003463 030115Z /66

O 030023Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
USLOSACLANT IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 112299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, GW, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON 120 MM GUN

1. MAY 2 PRESS REPORTS HIGHLIGHTED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
ON THE FY79 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL, IN PARTICULAR,
THE FUNDING FOR THE FY79 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 120 MM
TANK GUN. WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT FY79
REQUESTS WOULD BE DELETED BY THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE
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CURRENT INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS REGARDING
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE TANK GUN.

2. THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE FUNDING ACTIONS UNDERWAY IN
CONGRESS INVOLVING THE TANK GUN: A REPROGRAMMING OF
FY78 FUNDS AND THE FY79 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL.
REPROGRAMMING OF THE FY78 FUNDS FOR USE IN THE TANK GUN

PROGRAM IS DELAYED IN SUB-COMMITTEES OF BOTH THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. THE DELAY IS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE FACT THAT OSD AND ARMY HAVE NOT YET COORDINATED SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE 120 MM TANK GUN PROGRAM. ACTION TO RESOLVE THE DETAILS WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY AND CONGRESS SO INFORMED. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HAS KEPT REPEAT KEPT THE FY79 REQUEST FOR THE GUN PROGRAM IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET, REVERSING THE DECISION OF LATE LAST WEEK TO DELETE THAT REQUEST. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WILL TAKE ACTION CONTRARY TO THE 120 MM TANK GUN PROGRAM.

3. WE EXPECT THAT THE REQUIRED FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN NECESSARY FOR THE GUN PROGRAM.

4. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS/PRESS LINE:

A. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS IN FACT INCLUDED IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET THE FUNDS REQUESTED FOR FY79 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 120 MM TANK GUN.

B. ALTHOUGH FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE DEFENSE BUDGET HAS NOT OCCURRED, WE EXPECT THAT THE FUNDS

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REQUIRED FOR THE GUN PROGRAM WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FY79 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL.

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